

IN THIS ISSUE

This issue features groups of papers dealing with ethnic and transcultural psychiatry, psychopathology in adolescents and their parents, and nicotine withdrawal, together with three papers on other issues, respectively severely mentally ill patients in residential facilities in Italy, interferon-induced cognitive changes, and persistence of impairment in personality disorders. The lead review article by Verdoux *et al.* (pp. 307–315) reviews studies addressing the question of whether dependence on benzodiazepines, drugs well known to produce cognitive effects when administered currently, is followed by enduring cognitive deficits after withdrawal.

Ethnic and transcultural psychiatry

Two research papers are from studies in US ethnic minorities. Breslau and colleagues (pp. 317–327) report findings from the National Comorbidity Survey, for Hispanics and Blacks, compared to non-Hispanic Whites. The two socially disadvantaged ethnic groups showed lower rather higher lifetime risk of disorders, but greater persistence of disorders, once developed. Libby *et al.* (pp. 329–340) report rates of anxiety and depressive disorders in two American Indian tribes. Childhood physical abuse, with a prevalence of 7% in both tribes, was associated with higher later rates of disorder. Srinivasa Murthy and colleagues (pp. 341–351) report a different aspect of transcultural psychiatry, provision of community outreach to untreated cases of schizophrenia in rural India, which produced substantial benefit with modest resource costs, once countervailing savings were taken into account.

Psychopathology in adolescents and their parents

Klein *et al.* (pp. 353–365) report a longitudinal study of adolescents and their parents. Major depression in offspring showed not only the well-known association with maternal depression, but also with paternal depression, which has received little previous study. Offspring depression occurred particularly when parental depression was earlier in onset and recurrent. Reijneveld *et al.* (pp. 367–376) report a follow-up study of adolescents who experienced a severe café fire and other adolescents. They find diminished emotional and behavioural effects at 12 months compared with 5 months, but persistent excessive use of alcohol. Davis *et al.* (pp. 377–386) report on exercise attitudes and behaviours in female adolescents with anorexia nervosa and their parents. They find increased activity in the anorexic girls, and a relationship with activity in the parents. Wilhelm *et al.* (pp. 387–393) report on stability of scores on the Parental Bonding Instrument, which has been widely in used adults to measure earlier care and overprotection received from parents. They find impressive test–retest correlations over 20 years.

Nicotine withdrawal

Scott Acton *et al.* (pp. 395–408) report development of a measure of internalization, defined in terms of depression, anxiety and dysphoria and find higher internalization to predict failure of smoking cessation and abstinence. Xian *et al.* (pp. 409–419) performed a latent class analysis of symptoms of nicotine withdrawal in a sample of twins, and find a four-class severity continuum, with psychiatric disorders associated with the more severe classes and genetic contributions both to withdrawal symptoms and to success or failure of smoking cessation.